THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • MARCH 14, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

RETAIL INFLATION DECLINES MARGINALLY TO 6.44% IN FEB

Retail inflation fell marginally last month compared to that of January, on account of a slight easing in prices of food and fuel items

STILL ABOVE RBI'S UPPER TOLERANCE BAND

The inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index had peaked to a three-month high of 6.52% in January 2023, while it stood at 6.07% in February 2022. The rate for the food basket was 5.95% in February 2023, lower than 6% in January. Except for November and December 2022, retail inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance band of 6% since January 2022

URBAN INFLATION INCHES UP, SHOW DATA

- Rural inflation stood at 6.72% and urban inflation at 6.1% in February 2023 compared to 6.85% and 6%, respectively, in January 2023
- According to experts, the worst phase of inflation may be behind us. On Sunday, RBI's Monetary Policy Committee member Ashima Goyal said inflation in India is likely to come down over the year | P13

250 points

RBI'S CUMULATIVE RATE HIKE SINCE MAY LAST YEAR TO CONTAIN RISING PRICES

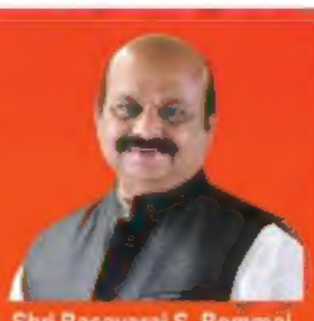
CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

G20 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT

Priority to Police Welfare and Strengthening Police Dept.

- To strengthen the police dept., which is at the forefront of ensuring law and order, 16,811 posts have been filled in the last three years.
- Ambitious plan of building 10 thousand houses for Police welfare under the Police Housing Scheme
- Eight Forensic Science Laboratories have been set up to facilitate effective and expeditious investigations in criminal cases.



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

© karnataka information

MADE-BY-INDIA CINEMA GETS FIRST OSCARS

AVINASH RAMACHANDRAN

INDIAN cinema first knocked at the door of the Academy Awards in 1958 with director Mehboob Khan's seminal work, *Mother India*. Since then, this quest has been an obsession almost, with films like *Salaam Bombay* and *Lagaan* going agonisingly close. Of course, our artists like Bhanu Athaiya (*Gandhi*), A R Rahman, Gulzar, and Resul Pookutty (*Slumdog Millionaire*), have all won the Oscars, but those were all films made in India, but not by India. And now, finally, a documentary called *The Elephant Whisperers* and the song *Naatu Naatu* from *RRR* have made the world turn in our direction.

Naatu Naatu started as a Telugu song, became an Indian phenomenon and then a worldwide rage, gaining momentum in the lead up to the Oscars, where it has won the 'Best Original Song' award, defeating the likes of Rihanna, and Lady Gaga. Accepting the award, composer MM Keeravaani said, "There was only one vision in my mind, Rajamouli's mind, and my family's mind too. *RRR* has to be the pride of every Indian and must put me on top of the world." It was also a lovely touch to see Deepika Padukone introducing the *Naatu Naatu* performance at the Oscars and to see singers Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava perform it.

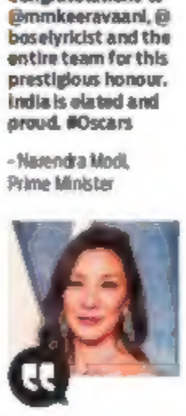
While the win of *Naatu Naatu* was a first for Indian cinema, producer Guneet Monga has cemented India's place as an important force in the Documentary category by winning her second Academy Award for *The Elephant Whisperers*. She previously won the same award for *Period. End of Sentence* (2019). Guneeth shared the award with Kartiki Gonzalves, the director of *The Elephant Whisperers*, and said, "I stand here to speak about the sacred bond between us and the natural world. For respect of the indigenous community and empathy towards other living beings and finally for co-existence." What a beautiful coincidence that the triumph should come on National Elephants' Day!

CONTINUED ON: P12

M M Keeravaani (right) and Chandrabose accept the award for Best Original Song for *Naatu Naatu* from *RRR* at the Oscars in Los Angeles on Sunday | AP

Exceptional! The popularity of 'Naatu Naatu' is global. It will be a song that will be remembered for years to come. Congratulations to @mmkeeravaani, @boselyricist and the entire team for this prestigious honour. India is elated and proud. #Oscars

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Ladies, don't let anybody tell you you are ever past your prime. Never give up

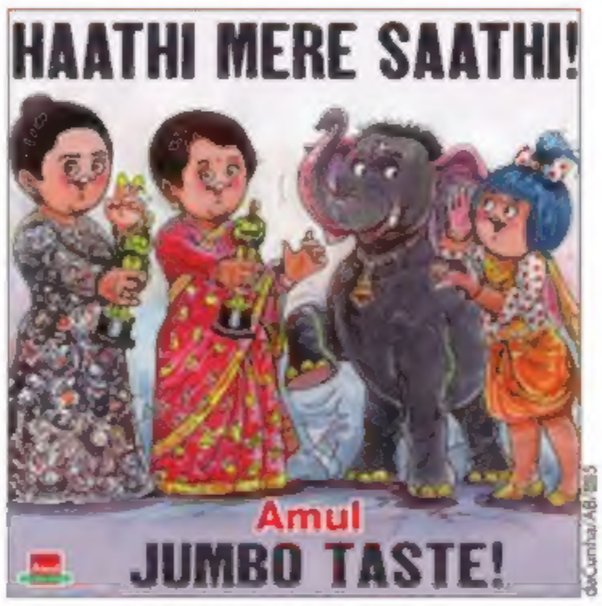
- Michelle Yeoh, who won the Best Actress Oscar for *Everything Everywhere All At Once*

Ruckus in Parliament over Rahul's remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE second leg of the Budget session of Parliament began on a disruptive note on Monday after Opposition and Treasury benches locked horns over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speech in London. With the government demanding Gandhi's apology for his 'democracy under attack' remark, both the Houses plunged into chaos, leading to adjournment of proceedings for the day.

In the Lok Sabha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh alleged his remarks denigrated India's image abroad and that he should apologise before the House. Speaker Om Birla adjourned the session after Congress MPs trooped to the Well. The Rajya Sabha, too, witnessed similar scenes after Union minister Piyush Goyal sought an apology from Rahul, who is not a member of the House. Taking potshots at the PM, he tweeted that Modi had said in South Korea: "There was a time when people used to feel that what sin they committed in their past life which resulted in taking birth in India, is this what you call a country.."



EXPRESS READ

SVB fallout: Start-ups need to diversify funds

Bengaluru: The crisis at Silicon Valley Bank is a wake-up call for many start-ups in India, especially Software-as-a-service start-ups that have a significant customer base in the US | P13

Elephant whisperers continue mission in TN

JEVIN SELWYN HENRY & SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA
@Dharmapuri/Chennai

WHILE 'The Elephant Whisperers' was winning an Oscar, thousands of kilometres away one of the film's main characters, 52-year-old elephant mahout K Bomman, was on a mission to protect three abandoned elephant calves in Dharmapuri.

"The Elephant Whisperers' is about tribal couple Bomman and Belli fostering an orphaned baby elephant Raghu in the Theppakadu elephant camp. The film, released on Netflix in December, captures the bond between the couple and the calf. While fans of the film celebrated, Bomman, as part of a team, was busy monitoring the movement of the two elephant calves orphaned after their parents were electrocuted recently. The same team is also trying to integrate an abandoned six-month-old baby elephant with a herd. Speaking to *TNIE*, Bomman said he hadn't known what an Oscar award was till now.

"Only with all these back-to-back calls and messages have I understood that our documentary is being talked about worldwide," he said.

"I never expected such an honor but the news makes us extremely happy. All this happened due to the efforts of the forest department. I dedicate this victory to the staff working with elephants."

Kartiki Gonsalves (L) and Guneet Monga pose with their awards for "The Elephant Whisperers" at the Oscars on Monday | AP/PTI

'I am their foster mom'

"I have reared many elephants, treated them like my own children, looking after them as a foster mother (valarppu thaai)," Belli told reporters at Nilgiris.

Same-sex marriage case sent to 5-judge bench

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday referred to a five-judge bench a batch of petitions seeking legal recognition to same-sex marriage under various statutory regimes such as the Hindu Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act and Foreign Marriage Act. A three-judge bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud said the pleas raised issues of seminal importance and posted them for final disposal from April 18.

"We are of the view that it would be appropriate if the issues raised are resolved by the bench of five judges of this court with due regard to Article 145(3) of the Constitution. We direct it to be placed before a constitution bench," the court said. It also acceded to a petitioner's request for live streaming the proceedings.

The bench during the hearing also remarked that the adopted child of a gay or lesbian couple does not have to be gay or lesbian. The remarks came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that the moment marriage as a recognised institution between same sex is sanctified, the question of adoption will come up. Parliament will then have examine it from perspective of the child's psychology. "Parliament will have to see psychology of a child who has not been reared by a father and a mother. Parliament will have to debate and take a call in view of our ethos," Mehta said.

'Same-sex relations denied dignity'

In the absence of legal recognition, same sex relations are "denied dignity and right to equality," said advocate, Karnataka HC and president, People's Union for Civil Liberties, Arvind Narrain. P9

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance

Also Available Online

Invest once, enjoy guaranteed maturity with life cover

LIC's DHAN VARSHA

Plan No.: 866 UIN: 512N349V01

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan

A SINGLE PREMIUM PLAN

Take one step towards your family's security & prosperity

Option to choose Policy Term (10 years /15 years)

Guaranteed Additions* upto ₹ 75/- per Thousand

Options to choose the Sum Assured (1.25 times or 10 times of Tabular Premium)

*Guaranteed Additions shall vary as per the chosen option, policy term and basic sum assured

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'

Visit: licindia.in Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

Download LIC Mobile App "LIC Digital"

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Follow us: LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

LIC | भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LIC/P1/2022-23/14/Eng

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.